

BASEBALL NEW ZEALAND

**SUMMER SHOWDOWN 2026**  
**TOURNAMENT MANUAL**



## TOURNAMENT PARTNERS

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One lucky player and their family of four (2 adults & 2 children) will WIN a once-in-a-lifetime Anaheim and Angels experience by playing at the Summer Showdown 2026 tournament.

# TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

**Tournament Dates:** 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Tournament Host Club:** Tauranga City Baseball Club

**Location & Venue:** Tauranga City Baseball - Carlton Street Reserve, Otumoetai, Tauranga.

**Team Roster Size:** Minimum 12 players, maximum 16 players, recommended 14 – 16 players.

**Age Eligibility:**

- 16U Grade - Players born from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2009 to the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2011
- 14U Grade - Players born from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2011 to the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2013
- Anyone born outside of the above DOB's will require a dispensation to play within that age grade.

## Tournament Contacts:

**Baseball NZ Contacts:** Hannah Hollands - National Tournaments & Events  
Tournament Director  
Email: [Hannah@baseballnewzealand.co.nz](mailto:Hannah@baseballnewzealand.co.nz)

Dominick Jefferies – Performance Pathways & Development  
Tournament Operations Manager  
Email: [dominick@baseballnewzealand.co.nz](mailto:dominick@baseballnewzealand.co.nz)

**Host Club Contacts:** Host Club Tournament Liaison  
Roger Marshman  
Email: [Roger.marshman@taurangacitybaseball.co.nz](mailto:Roger.marshman@taurangacitybaseball.co.nz)

**Tournament Umpire Director:** Warren van Rooyen  
Phone: +64 21 247 4036  
Email: [Warren@baseballnewzealand.co.nz](mailto:Warren@baseballnewzealand.co.nz)

**Tournament Head of Scoring:** Natasha Kjestrup  
Phone: +64 27 2740575  
Email: [scoring@baseballnewzealand.co.nz](mailto:scoring@baseballnewzealand.co.nz)

## Medical & Emergency:

Throughout the Summer Showdown tournament there will be an onsite medic available each day, to support and/or manage any injuries or medical emergencies that may occur onsite. All injuries should be diagnosed, therefore seeking medical attention is highly recommended.

For concussion management, please refer to Baseball NZ's [Concussion Policy](#) and the [ACC SportSmart](#) website and Sport Concussion National Guidelines.

**THE EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER IN NZ IS '111'**

<b>Doctor &amp; Medical Centres:</b>	<b>Accident &amp; Healthcare</b> 19 Second Avenue, Tauranga, +64 7 577 0010
	<b>Tauranga Hospital</b> 829 Cameron Road, Tauranga, +64 7 579 8000

# TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

The Summer Showdown tournament is a national club-based youth tournament for age grades 14U & 16U club teams to compete for a national title in each grade.

The tournament is set out to; promote player development, introduce players to tournament play at the appropriate level of competition for their age and stage of development, face a variety of opposition, enjoy their baseball experience, challenge themselves but feel successful in this environment (whatever success may look like for each individual player in their baseball journey) and develop a greater love for the game.

The Summer Showdown Tournament will include Baseball NZ's '50% Participation Rule' and Pitch Smart Regulations:

1. 50% Participation Rule:
  - All players (14U & 16U grade teams) must have a minimum of 50% of defensive outs of the total number of outs during round-robin tournament play and semi-finals, excluding all finals games.
  - A loss of 1 point per day will apply to those teams that **do not** meet these participation requirements.
2. Pitch Smart Regulations - refer to technical norms for further information

The Summer Showdown Tournament will include team and individual challenges for players and teams to enter, such as: Home run Derby, Dash for Cash and Rocket Relay

## Eligibility

All 2025/2026 season registered players, residing in New Zealand and age-eligible (or under with dispensation), who have completed four (4) official games during the regular season for their baseball club and are in good standing with baseball clubs and Baseball NZ, are eligible to compete in the 2026 National Summer Showdown.

- Exemption To The 4 Official Game Minimum Rule:

Players may file for exemption to the four-game rule through the dispensation process if they have missed club games due to injury, living outside of New Zealand or other reasons outside of their control.

## Team Composition

Clubs build their team rosters from their registered, eligible players in the first instance and if they require additional players they will need to register for the player draft. Clubs may not create composite teams.

## Dispensations

Dispensation requests for players to play **UP** in the Summer Showdown will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis after a thorough review of each individual request.

Teams requesting dispensations for players, need to have exhausted their options of all age-eligible players before requesting dispensation for underage players.

All player dispensations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis after a thorough review of the club's regular season members and team/s. All dispensations must be received no later than **20<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 11.59pm**.

**No Late dispensations will be considered.**

Dispensations Open | Now  
[APPLY FOR DISPENSATION HERE](#)

Dispensations Close | 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 5.00pm

# PICK UP PLAYERS

Baseball NZ wants to encourage participation at national tournaments and events, in a fair, consistent and manageable manner. Therefore, pick-up players are included in the 2026 Summer Showdown tournament.

The player draft process is currently being finalised, pick up player registrations will open once this process is complete. Further details will be provided early 2026.

# PLAYER DRAFT & DRAFTING CLUBS

**Baseball NZ is currently reviewing the player draft process. All draft details will be provided as soon as this process is complete. Further details will be provided early 2026.**

## Team Tents/Marquees:

All teams competing in the Summer Showdown tournament will have access to a large shared marquee space, providing sun and weather protection and a central on-site area for teams to leave bags and equipment, as well as gather or meet throughout the tournament.

We recommend you do NOT leave any belongings in the team tents overnight, as there is no security at the park overnight. Teams can bring, fold up chairs, tables and BBQ's as they wish, only the marquee will be provided.

## Player Parade & Walk Out Song:

Baseball NZ wants to make these tournaments and events a memorable and enjoyable experience for the players and all involved. Therefore, all teams will be included as part of the opening ceremony, where each team will take part in a player parade, walking out to their chosen walk-out song. The best-dressed team wins a great team experience prize!

Each team can decide upon a simple team costume or dress-up items that represent their team name, carry their team name on a banner or sign and choose a walk-out song to enter the player parade with in the opening ceremony. We suggest teams get creative as there will be prizes for the best dressed, coupled with their walk-out song.

We kindly request that team walk-out songs refrain from foul or inappropriate language in their lyrics. Baseball NZ will request a song change if any walk-out songs do not meet our standards.

Coaches and managers are to participate in this also with their teams.

Player Parade instructions will be provided to teams upon arrival at the opening ceremony. Walk-out songs are required to be provided to Baseball NZ in an appropriate file format by the **27<sup>th</sup> March 2026** to [Hannah@baseballnewzealand.co.nz](mailto:Hannah@baseballnewzealand.co.nz)

# TOURNAMENT AWARDS

The Summer Showdown awards will be announced at the Summer Showdown tournament prize giving, for first, second & third-placed teams in each age grade. Plus, golden arm, golden glove, golden bat and MVP for each team and the overall tournament, in each grade.

We are excited to announce for 2026 Visit Anaheim, Angels baseball and House of Travel are supporting the Summer Showdown tournament once again and have kindly sponsored a once-in-a-lifetime trip for a family of

four (2 adults, 2 children) to visit the city of Anaheim, go behind the scenes with the Angels baseball team and enjoy the magic of Disneyland.

One lucky player will be randomly drawn from our Summer Showdown participants at the tournament prize giving. The winning player MUST be in attendance at the prize giving to WIN and claim this prize. The Visit Anaheim once in a lifetime experience includes; flights, accommodation, transfers, Angels baseball behind the scenes and a game plus Disneyland.

## **TOURNAMENT MEETINGS**

### **1. Tournament Technical Meeting - Coaches, Managers, Scorers & Umpires:**

Date: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026  
Time: 8.15pm  
Location/Venue: Online via TEAMS / ZOOM meeting

All Team's Executive Officers, Head Coaches, Scorekeepers plus Baseball NZ Umpires and Scorekeepers **MUST** all attend this meeting. The meeting will be chaired by Dominick Jefferies & Hannah Hollands

## **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

The Summer Showdown, National Youth Champs tournament will run from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 9.00am to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 5.30pm. Please ensure your travel arrangements enable you to be onsite in attendance for these dates and times frames provided. Further schedule details will be provided early 2026.

## **TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS & TECHNICAL RULE SET**

- Please refer to the Summer Showdown Tournament & Technical Rule Set Manual due for release January 2026.